

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for providing notification of an incoming email message to a subscriber, comprising:
- an email server to which the incoming email message is sent and on which the incoming email is stored;
 - an email notification server to automatically poll the email server for presence of new email messages to obtain the incoming email message when a pre-determined amount of time has elapsed;
 - a header extraction process to extract the header of the incoming email;
 - a text-to-speech converter to extract at least a portion of the header to speech as converted header information;
 - a process to call a voicemail server corresponding to the subscriber and leave a voicemail message containing the converted header information as a voicemail message; and
 - a process to notify the subscriber of the voicemail message.
2. (Previously Amended) The system recited in claim 1, wherein the process to notify the subscriber of the voicemail message comprises sending the converted header information to the subscriber.
3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The system recited in claim 1, wherein the subscriber has more than one email account and wherein the email notification server automatically polls each email account of the subscriber for the presence of new email message.

5. (Original) The system recited in claim 4, wherein each email account has a different predetermined amount of time that the email notification server waits prior to polling the email account.

6. (Original) The system recited in claim 4, wherein each email account has a different predetermined amount of time that the email notification server waits prior to polling the email account and the email notification server skips polling the current email account and polls the next email account of the subscriber if the predetermined time corresponding to the current account has not yet elapsed.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for notifying a subscriber of the presence of new email messages, comprising the steps of:

(a) — automatically polling an email account associated with the subscriber for the presence of new email messages when a predetermined amount of time has elapsed;

(b) — obtaining any new email messages;

(c) — extracting at least a portion of header information of each new email message as extracted header information; and

(d) — notifying the subscriber of each new email message as extracted header information.

8. (Original) The method recited in claim 7, further comprising the step of converting the extracted header information to speech as converted header information.

9. (Currently amended) The method recited in claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

contacting a voicemail system associated with the subscriber; and
leaving a voicemail message containing the header information for the subscriber.

10. (Currently amended) The method recited in claim 7 ~~claim 9~~, further comprising the steps:

determining whether the subscriber has additional email accounts; and
repeating the steps of claim 7 (a)–(d) for each email account if the subscriber has multiple email accounts.

11. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 8, further comprising ~~the step of~~ determining whether the a predetermined time has elapsed prior to polling the subscriber's email account.

12. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 10, wherein the email notification service automatically polls each of the additional email accounts for presence of new email message, and wherein each of the additional email accounts has a different predetermined amount of time that the email notification service waits to poll the new email message further

~~comprising the step of determining whether a predetermined time has elapsed for each of the subscriber's email accounts where the subscriber has multiple email accounts.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A system for providing email notification to a plurality of ~~subscribers~~ subscribers, comprising:

one or more email servers to which emails destined for any of the plurality of subscribers are sent and stored;

a database system containing an account record corresponding to each of the plurality of subscribers;

a notification server coupled to the database system, the notification server comprising:

a first process to automatically poll the one or more email servers to determine if there are any new email messages for the plurality of subscribers, wherein the one or more email servers for the plurality of subscriber are assigned with different predetermined amounts of time that the first process waits to poll for the new email messages; and

a second process to notify each subscriber of any new email messages in accordance with an account record in the database corresponding to each subscriber.

14. (Currently Amended) The system recited in claim 13, wherein the notification server further comprises a third process to automatically obtain each new email message from each of the one or more email servers, convert at least a portion of the email header associated with each new email message from text to speech as converted header information and to send

the converted header information to a voice mailbox corresponding to the subscriber to whom the email was directed.

15. (Currently Amended) The system recited in claim 13, wherein prior to polling for a particular subscriber, the first process first determines if a predetermined time that is preset to the particular subscriber has been reached, and polling for the particular subscriber only if the predetermined time has been reached.

16. (Currently Amended) The system recited in claim 13, wherein one or more of the subscribers has a plurality of email accounts, and the first process polls each of the plurality of email accounts for each of the subscribers, wherein each of the plurality of email accounts is assigned with a different predetermined amount of time that the first process waits to poll for the presence of any new email messages.

17. (Currently Amended) The system recited in claim 15, wherein prior to polling a particular email account for a particular subscriber, the first process first determined if a predetermined time that is preset for the particular email account has been reached, and polling the particular email account for the particular subscriber only if the predetermined time has been reached.

18. (Original) The system recited in claim 13, wherein the account record contains email contact information for the subscriber corresponding to the account record.

19. (Original) The system recited in claim 13, wherein the email contact information includes a field describing a type of email system.

20. (Original) The system recited in claim 13, wherein the account record contains voicemail contact information for the subscriber corresponding to the account record.

21. (Original) The system recited in claim 13, wherein the account record contain pager contact information for the subscriber corresponding to the account record.

22. (Currently Amended) A server for providing email notification to a plurality of subscriber, comprising:

means for connecting a database to obtain an account record for a particular subscriber;

means for obtaining email account contact information for the particular subscriber from the account record for the particular subscriber;

means for automatically polling the email account according to the email account contact information for the presence ~~present~~ of new email when a predetermined amount of time has elapsed; and

means for causing the particular subscriber to be notified of new email in the email account when a new mail has been polled from the email account.

23. (Currently Amended) The server recited in claim 22, wherein the particular subscriber has multiple email accounts, further comprising:

means for automatically polling each of the email account for the present of new email,
wherein the multiple email account are polled in different predetermined amounts of time; and

means for causing the particular subscriber to be notified of the present of email in any of
the email accounts.

24. (Original) The server recited in claim 23, wherein the multiple email account are on
multiple email servers.

25. (Original) The server recited in claim 22, wherein the means for polling the email
account comprises means for polling the email account only after a predetermined time has
elapsed.

26. (Original) The server recited in claim 22, wherein the means for causing the
subscriber to be notified, comprises:

means for obtaining at least a portion of the header information from each new email for
the particular subscriber;

means for converting the obtained header information from each new email for the
particular subscriber;

means for sending the converted information to a voicemail system associated with the
particular subscriber in accordance with voicemail system contact information contained in the
account record for the particular subscriber.

27. (Original) The server recited in claim 22, wherein the means for causing the subscriber to be notified comprises means for sending a page to the particular subscriber in accordance with pager contact information contained in the account record.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for providing email notification to a plurality of subscribers, comprising the steps of:

connecting a database to obtain an account record for a particular subscriber;
obtaining email account contact information for the particular subscriber from the account record for the particular subscriber;
when a predetermined amount of time has elapsed, automatically polling the email account according to the email account contact information for the presence ~~present~~ of new email; and

causing the particular subscriber to be notified of new email in the email account.

29. (Currently amended) The method recited in claim 28, wherein the particular subscriber has multiple email accounts, further comprising the steps of:

automatically polling each of the email accounts for the presence of email in any of new email, wherein the multiple email account are polled in different predetermined amounts of time;
and

causing the particular subscriber to be notified of the presence of new email in any of the email accounts.

30. (Previously amended) The method recited in claim 29, wherein the multiple email accounts are on multiple email servers.

31. (Currently amended) The method recited in claim 28, wherein the step of polling the email account comprises ~~the step of~~ polling the email account only after a predetermined time has elapsed.

32. (Currently amended) The method recited in claim 28, wherein ~~the step of~~ causing the subscriber to be notified comprises ~~the steps of~~:

obtaining at least a portion of the header information from each new email for the particular subscriber;

converting the obtained header information to speech as converted information; and

sending the converted information to a voicemail system associated with the particular subscriber in accordance with voicemail system information contained in the account record for the particular subscriber.

33. (Currently amended) The method recited in claim 28, wherein ~~the step of~~ causing the subscriber to be notified comprises ~~the step of~~ sending a page to the particular subscriber in accordance with pager contact information contained in the account record.

34. (Currently Amended) A system for providing notification of an incoming email message to a subscriber, comprising:

an email server to which the incoming email message is sent and on which the incoming email message is stored;

an email notification server to automatically poll the email server for the presence of new email messages ~~to obtain the incoming email message~~ every a predetermined amount of time;

a header extraction process to extract the header of the incoming email message;

a text-to-speech converter to convert at least a portion of the header to speech as converted header information; and

a process to automatically notify the subscriber of the incoming email message.

35. (Previously Added) The system recited in claim 34, wherein the process to automatically notify the subscriber of the incoming message comprises a process to call a voicemail server corresponding to the subscriber and leave a voicemail message containing the converted header information as a voicemail message, wherein the voicemail server includes a process for automatically notifying the subscriber of the voicemail message containing the converted header information.

36. (Currently Amended) The system recited in claim 34, wherein the email notification server waits for the predetermined ~~a predetermined~~ amount of time prior to polling the email server to obtain the incoming message.

37. (Previously Added) The system recited in claim 34, wherein the predetermined amount of time is according to a schedule.

38. (Previously Added) The system recited in claim 34, wherein the predetermined amount of time is random.

39. (Currently Amended) A method for notifying a subscriber of the presence of new email messages, comprising:

automatically polling an email account associated with the subscriber for the presence of new email messages when a predetermined amount of time has elapsed;

obtaining any new email messages identified in response to the polling;

extracting at least a portion of header information of each new email message identified in response to the polling; and

automatically notifying the subscriber of each new email message identified in response to the polling.

40. (Previously Added) The method recited in claim 39, further comprising converting the extracted header information to speech.

41. (Previously Added) The method recited in claim 39, further comprising:
contacting a voicemail system associated with the subscriber; and
leaving a voicemail message containing the converted header information for the subscriber.

42. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 41, further comprising:
determining whether the subscriber has additional email accounts; and

for each additional email account:

automatically polling the additional email account for the presence of new email messages, wherein the multiple email accounts are polled in different predetermined amounts of time;

obtaining any new email messages identified in response to the polling of the additional email account;

extracting at least a portion of header information of each new email message identified in response to the polling of the additional email account; and

automatically notifying the subscriber of each new email message identified in response to the polling of the additional email account.

43. (Previously Added) The method recited in claim 42, further comprising determining whether a predetermined time has elapsed for each of the subscriber's email accounts where the subscriber has multiple email accounts.

44. (Previously Added) The method recited in claim 40, further comprising determining whether a predetermined time has elapsed prior to polling the subscriber's email account.

45. (Previously Added) The method recited in claim 39, further comprising sending a page to the subscriber to notify the subscriber of one or more of the new email messages.

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46. (Previously Added) The method recited in claim 39, further comprising placing
a telephone call to a telephone number associated with the subscriber to notify the subscriber of
one or more of the new email messages.
